SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, I would just like to make a submission on this. I had conceived of certain things myself. But I thought that I would have placed my colleagues in a case of this nature in a very embarrassing situation if I were to say. Sir, I am in your hands. The papers are here with me. You may kindly look into them and if you think that any enquiry should be instituted, I am also prepared for it provided you discuss it with my leader. I am prepared for anything in this case because this is a matter which has hurt me. I would not like to be unduly sensitive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will go into the whole matter.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, you may like to go through the records.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why I said I will go into the whole matter. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Nuclear Programme of Pakistan

*84. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuing efforts by Pakistan to produce nuclear weapons as is evident from the reported statement of the US Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Dean Hinton to the effect that Pakistan was not limiting its nuclear programme strictly to peaceful objectives;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to review the country's nuclear policy to meet the situation; if so, what are the details thereof?

The MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are concerned at the non-peaceful dimensions of Pakistan's nuclear programme. A constant watch is being kept on this aspect as on all others having a bearing on India s security.

Pilot export test house in Bombay

*88. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a pilot export test house is being set up in Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the details and cost of the Project; and

(c) by when the same is expected to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the Test House will have three major sectional laboratories mechanical, electrical and chemical with 13 sub-sections for testing of products for various characteristics. The project is provisionally estimated to cost about Rs. 260 lakhs.

(c) by the end of March, 1988.

Export of cotton by Maharashtr

*89 SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI RAOOF VALJULLAH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the demand of Maharashtra Government for the export of cotton bales abroad;

(b) how much cotton quota has been given to the State for export purposes;

(c) what are the reasons for offering low prices to the cotton growing farmers in Maharashtra under the Monopoly Cotton Purchase Scheme of the State Government which led to agitation; and

(d) how the Central Government propose to help the State Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Government of Maharashtra have requested for export quota of 4 lakh bales in favour of Maharshtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd.

(b) During the current cotton season, the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation has been allotted 55,000 bales of cotton for export so far.

(c) Under the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme, the Maharashtra State Coopeartive Cotton Growers Marketing Federation pays guaranteed prices which are at the same level as the minimum support prices fixed by the Government of India. Earlier the Federation was paying guaranteed prices fixed at higer levels than minimum support price level. Hence, the fall in the prices initially paid to the cotton growers in Maharashtra.

(d) The Government of India will release additional cotton quota for export to the State at the appropriate time.

Reopening of Khokrapur rail route in Rajasthan

*90. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was in-depth discussion between India and Pakistan on the issue of reopening of Khokrapur rail route linking Rajasthan with Sind which had been closed more than 20 years ago;

(b) if so, the result of the discussions held; and

(c) whether any follow-up action has since been taken?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision to reopen the rail route has been taken and the draft agreement to be signed for reopening of the Khokrapur-Munabao rail route has been finalised.

(c) The Pakistan Government have been informed that Government is ready to send the Railway delegation to sign the Agreement so that the rail route can be reopened early.

भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा क्षेत्रों से लोगों का अभिगमन

*91. डा० बापू कालदाते :
डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा पर सेनाओं की तैनाती के बाद भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा पर उत्पन्न तनाव के कारण भारी संख्या में लोग अन्य स्थानों पर जाने लगे हैं ;